

This study grew out of Senator Frist and my concerns that Congress was unduly influencing the process by which priorities are set at NIH through the practice of the earmarking of funds for disease-specific research. We were concerned that the priority setting process at NIH was becoming less science-based and more politically driven. It was clear that our concern was shared by the majority of the Senate, as they voted to include this amendment in the appropriations bill.

In July of this year, IOM completed its work and reported its findings to Congress. The study cited the need for greater public involvement, specifically, and I quote, "The director of NIH should establish and appropriately staff a Director's Council of Public Representatives, to facilitate interactions between NIH and the general public" and that, "public membership of NIH policy and program advisory groups should be selected to represent a broad range of public constituencies." unquote. It is interesting to note that both these recommendations focus public input directly to NIH, rather than to Congress.

This is very much in line with another recommendation; quote, "The U.S. Congress should use its authority to mandate specific research programs, establish level of funding for them, and implement new organizational entities only when other approaches have proven inadequate." unquote.

The findings of this study are clear. For the purpose of priority-setting, public input—including organized input via lobbying efforts—are most appropriately directed to NIH, where it can be evaluated by appropriate science-based criteria. Only when there is evidence that NIH is unable or unwilling to apply this input appropriately to their priority-setting process and criteria, should Congress influence the process through legislative mandates. It is my contention that if the litmus test were applied to all earmarks, most would be stripped from legislation.

The message is clear: Congress should avoid the practice of earmarking within NIH appropriations. The findings of the research conducted by the independent and impartial experts clearly indicates that the concern regarding the pricess of priority setting at NIH was warranted.

As the Senate considers the future appropriations and authorization legislation for NIH, I would urge my colleagues to consider, with a critical eye, any disease-specific earmarks. I would urge my colleagues to ask themselves whether there is evidence that NIH has somehow failed to appropriately consider and apply science-based priority-setting criteria. In the absence of such evidence, I would urge my colleagues to not impose earmarks or other legislative mandates on the NIH.●

A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH PINGA

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to pay

tribute to the late Joseph Pinga, a community leader who passed away on September 1st, in West Warwick, Rhode Island. Mr. Pinga was best known for his community giving and his vigilance that helped to reform the West Warwick town government.

Mr. Pinga served honorably in the U.S. Navy and worked to establish his business, Westcott Baking Company, of which he was the owner and operator for over forty years. In this capacity, Mr. Pinga was regarded not only as a local pioneer, but also as a defender of rights for small business owners. In fact, in 1978, *Time Magazine* recognized Joe's perseverance in an article about his struggle with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Joseph Pinga certainly was a believer in community involvement. Numerous charitable organizations could always count on Mr. Pinga's generosity without ever requesting any public acknowledgement. In addition, Joe ran for mayor of West Warwick in 1990 and was a member of the local Elks Lodge.

Mr. President, I join with all Rhode Islanders in extending to Mr. Pinga's family our sympathy and best wishes.●

HONORING WALTER SELLERS

● Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished career of Walter G. Sellers of Wilberforce, Ohio—who has recently completed his term as president of Kiwanis International.

Mr. Sellers is the first African-American to serve as Kiwanis International President. For 32 years, he was a member of the Kiwanis Club in Xenia, Ohio. In 1990, he was elected to the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees, he served as Vice President and Treasurer before becoming President.

All Ohioans are proud of Mr. Sellers' outstanding stewardship of one of the largest service clubs in the world. But we also know that his service to our community extends beyond his work with the Kiwanis organization. He has served as President of the Xenia Board of Education and President of the Ohio School Boards Association. And he has done great work on many other public-service boards in Ohio.

Walter Sellers has dedicated his life to improving the lives of the people of Ohio, especially in the field of education. We are all extremely grateful for his efforts and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him all the best in his next endeavors.●

THE FUTURE OF FAMILY FARMING AND RANCHING

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I rise to express—in very stark terms—my deep and increasing concern for the future of family farming and ranching in this country. The truth is, our country's family farmers and ranchers are under increasing economic pressure from concentration in agriculture—concentration in meatpacking, con-

centration in food-retailing, concentration in rail and other forms of transportation, concentration in banking, concentration in the grain-trading companies, and concentration in production itself.

The strands of these varied concentrations are tightening around the throats of family farmers and ranchers, threatening not only the farmers and ranchers themselves, but also their families, the small-town businesses that depend on them, their schools, their churches, and the very social fabric that makes rural America such a special and wonderful place to live—the reasons why we should do whatever we can to preserve and promote our system of family farming and ranching.

But there is more at stake here than just our farmers and ranchers and their families, critically important as they are. What's also at stake is the very system that produces our food, that gives us life. Study after study shows that family agriculture is the most efficient way, the most environmentally safe way, to produce our food. And that is another reason why we should do whatever we can to preserve and promote our system of family farming and ranching.

But, frankly, there is a troubling movement in our country toward the corporatization of family agriculture. Look at the pork industry—it has become increasingly dominated by giant corporate hog factories, a fact which has gone hand-in-glove with lower and lower prices for hogs, to the point that many family pork producers can't make a living at it anymore, and have simply given up.

A case in point is the state of North Carolina, which has seen the biggest influx of corporate hog factories in the United States. In 1984, there were 24,000 hog farmers in that state, just before the growth of hog factories skyrocketed. Now, there are 7,000 hog farmers in North Carolina, almost all of them working on contract, little more than hired hands working for outside corporate investors. However, at the same time that independent family hog producers have almost disappeared in North Carolina, the number of hogs produced there has tripled, thus leading to enormous environmental problems—fish kills numbering in the tens of millions, rapidly rising nitrates in groundwater used for drinking, increasing levels in airborne ammonia, stench that makes the eyes water, and a corresponding and unsurprising drop in tourism. The North Carolina experiment has clearly not worked.

What has happened in North Carolina, and what is happening in many other states, is nothing less than a human tragedy. My ancestors, and the ancestors of many people here today, left Europe to escape the feudal system of agriculture, a system of inequality and unfairness where a baron controlled the land and the peasants worked for him as little better than slaves.